

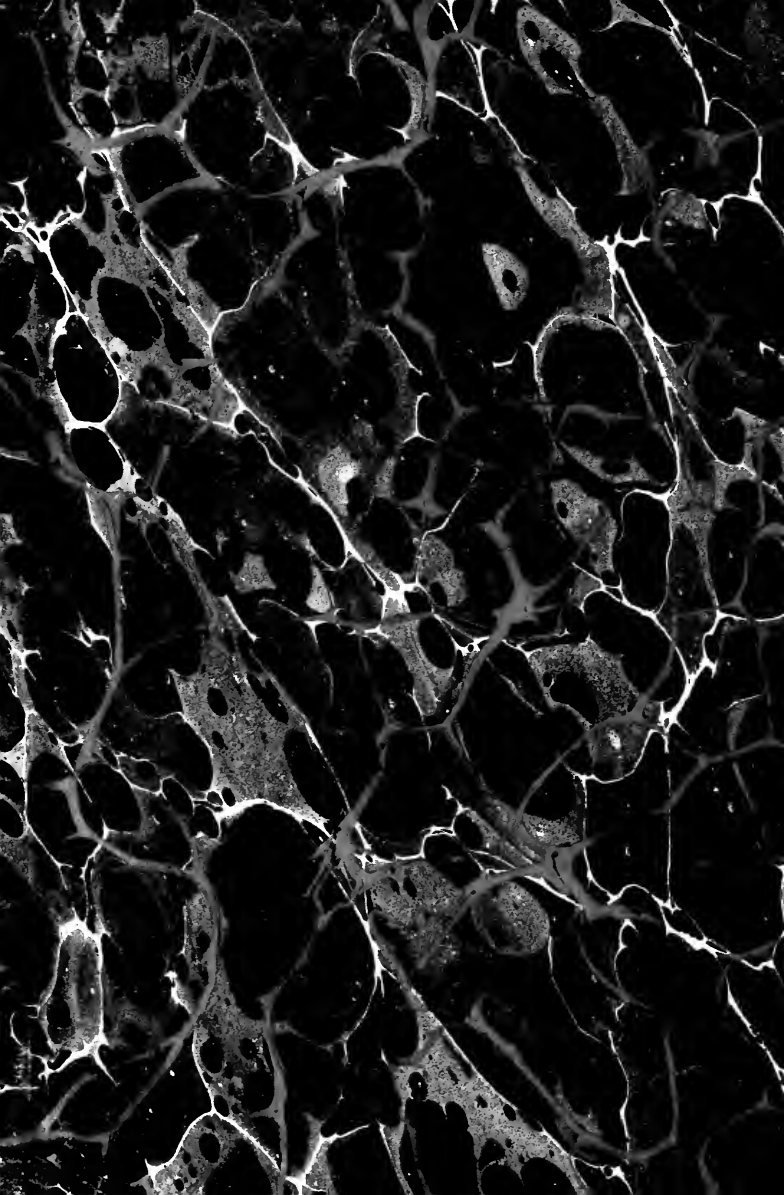
UC-NRLF

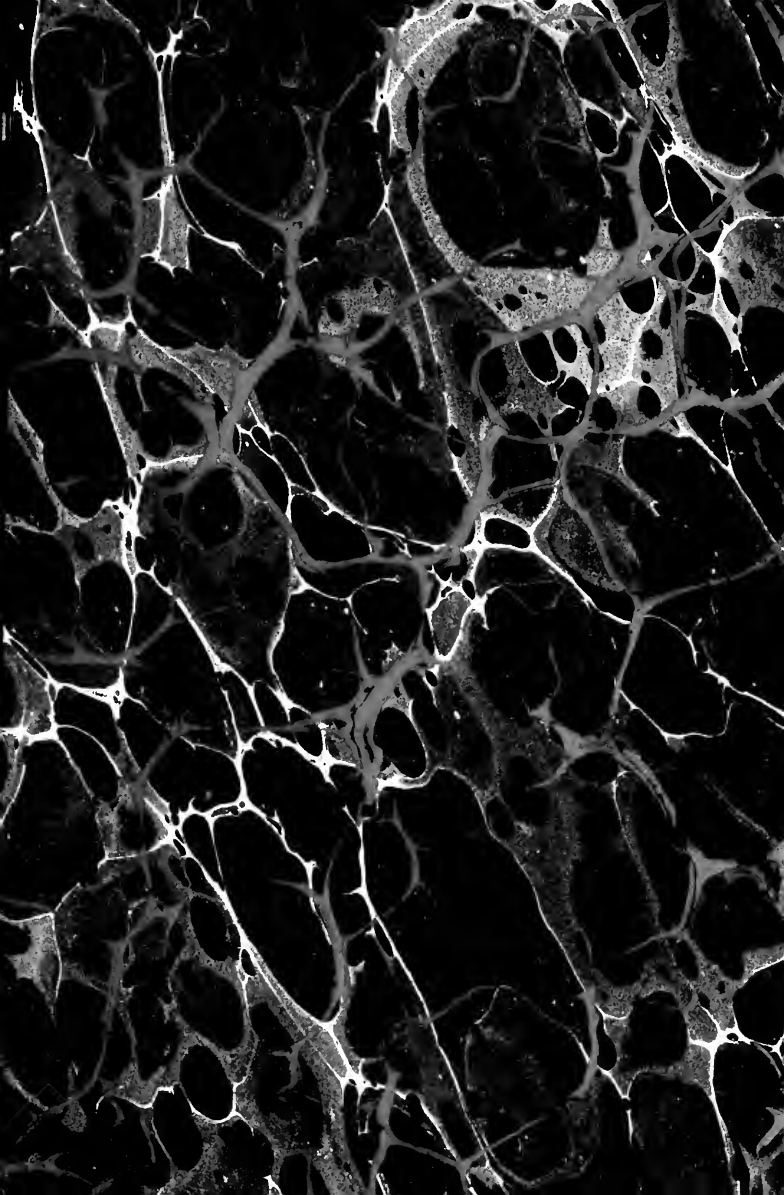


B 2 807 780

D S  
485  
U3  
M44  
1902  
MAIN

AND BOOK OF MEYWAR  
AND  
GUIDE TO ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF INTEREST.









Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation

# HANDBOOK OF MEYWAR

AND

GUIDE TO ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF INTEREST,

By

FATEH LAL MEHTA.



Bombay :

PRINTED AT THE TIMES OF INDIA STEAM PRESS.

---

1888.

---

PRICE RE. 1.

LOAN STACK



DS455  
U31144  
1902  
MA11

## PREFACE.

## NOTICE.

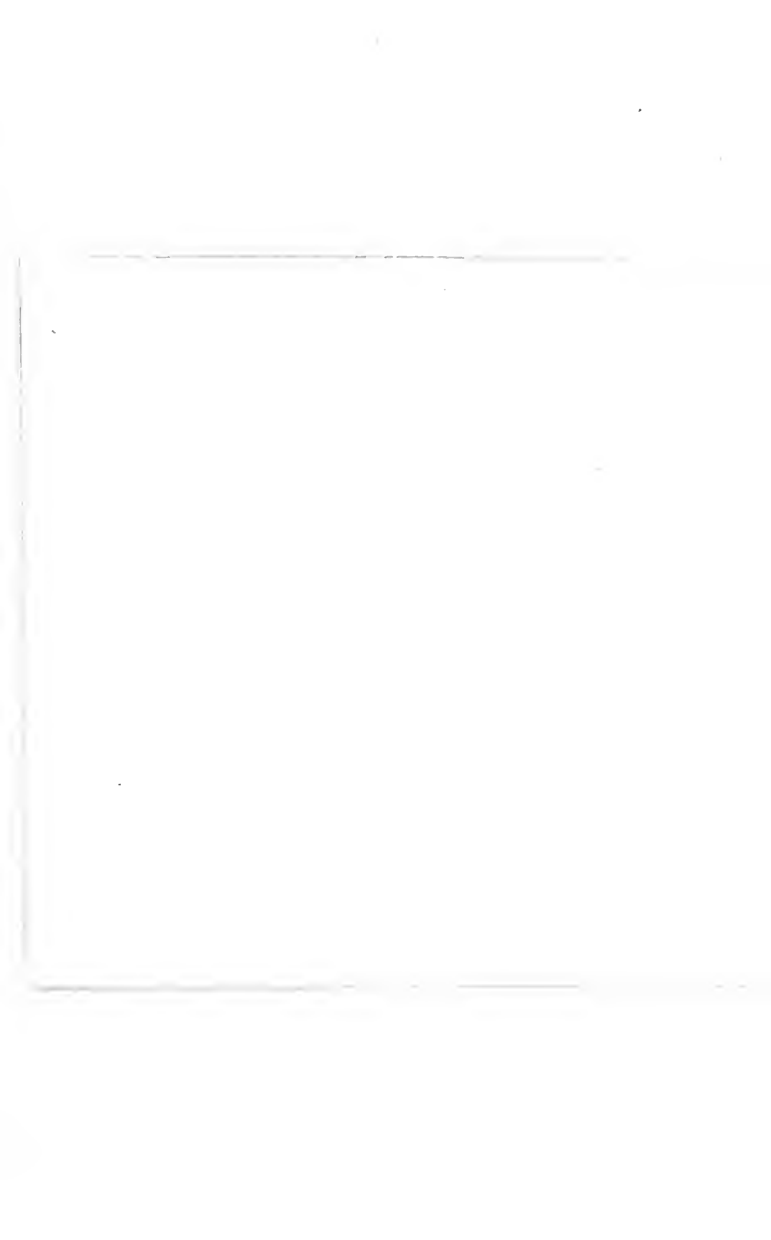
---

A LONG time has passed since the Handbook of Meywar was published. An Addenda has therefore been prepared and appended at the end of the book.

FATEH LAL MEHTA.

*1st November, 1902.*

OODEYPORE, }  
*1st December, 1888.* }



DS465  
U3M44  
1902  
MA151

## PREFACE.

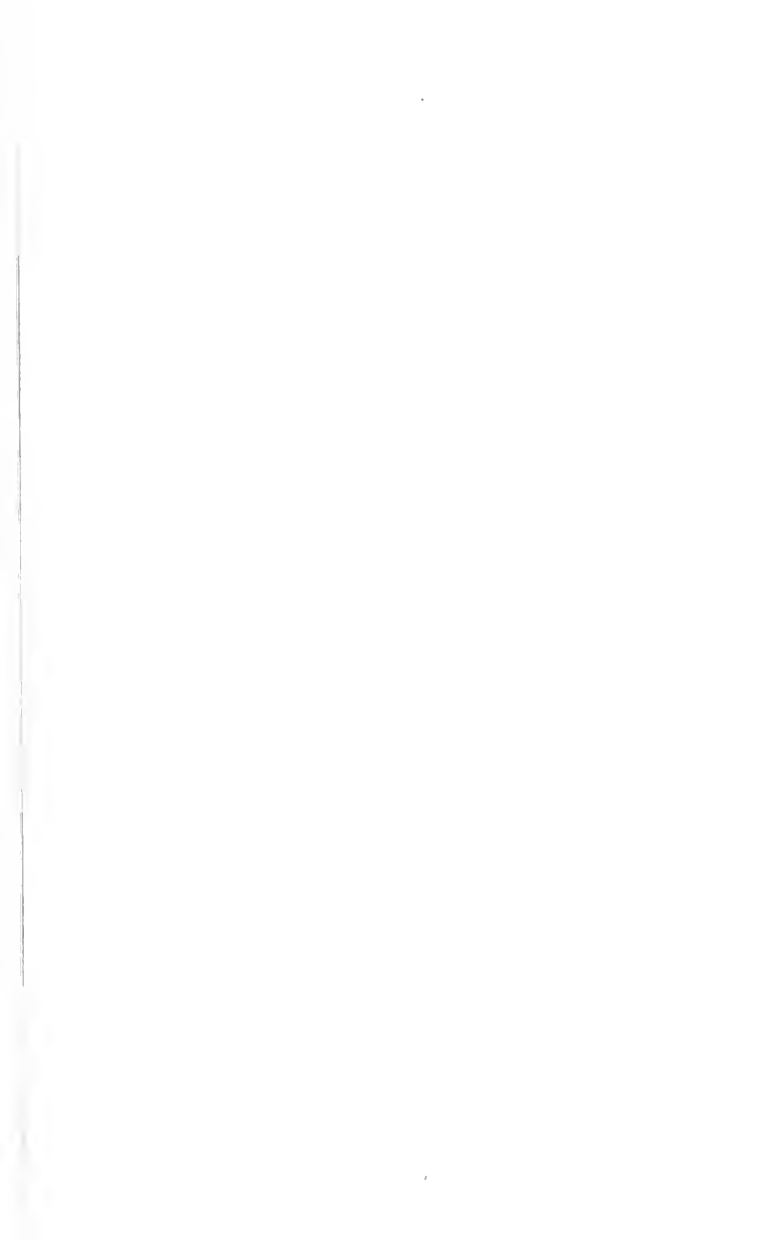
---

UP to the present date there was no Guide or Handbook for this beautiful city of Oodeypore and its environs ; therefore, Colonel S. B. Miles, the Resident of Meywar, requested me to compile a short book as a Guide to Oodeypore. I hope this Handbook will be useful to travellers, and to make it interesting I have added Geographical and Historical Notes on Meywar.

In compiling this Handbook, I am much indebted to the following books, namely : Sir William Hunter's *Imperial Gazetteer of India* ; Captain Yate's *Gazetteer of Meywar* ; Major Cole's *Notes on Architectural Monuments in Oodeypore*, and "*Chitor and the Meywar Family*," from which I have taken many references.

FATEH LAL MEHTA.

OODEYPORE, }  
1st December, 1888. }



# CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE.
I. Introduction ... ..	ii
II. Fort of Chitor ... ..	1
III. The City of Oodeypore and its Environs...	8
IV. The Maharana's Palaces ... ..	14
V. The Maharana's Gardens ... ..	21
VI. The Pichola Lake and its Palaces ... ..	24
VII. The Village of Ahar and the Royal Crema- tory ... ..	28
VIII. Geographical Note on Meywar ... ..	30
IX. Historical Note on Meywar... ..	39



## ERRATA.

---

Page ii, line 9th, the word "copulas" should be *read* "cupolas."

Page 2nd, line 4th, the word "Thuta" should be *read* "Phuta."

Page 8th, line 13th, the word "Undey Sagar" should be *read* "Udey Sagar."

Page 17th, line 6th, the word "Shani" should be *read* "Shali."

Page 20th, line 9th, the word "Pol" should be *read* "Pal."

Page 44th, line 21st, the word "*Mahratta*" should be *read* "*Mahrattas*."





## INTRODUCTION.

---

The nearest and most convenient station for coming to Oodeypore is Chitor, situated on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, at a distance of 116 miles from Ajmere, 35 miles from Neemuch, and 70 miles from Oodeypore.

Near the station is a Travellers' Bungalow.

At the Station conveyances of every kind can be obtained, *i.e.*, bullock-carts, camels, ekkas, and camel-carts. A dâk also runs between Chitor and Oodeypore and can hold four passengers; the fare charged being Rs. 3-8-0 (three rupees and eight annas) per seat. The whole carriage can be reserved on the payment of four fares. The dâk takes twelve hours on an average to complete the journey.

There is a good metalled road from Chitor to Oodeypore, having five Travellers' Bungalows on it, namely :—

BANDEEN ...	...	...	16 miles from Chitor
MUNGARWAR	...	...	30 miles from Chitor
MINAR ...	...	...	43 miles from Chitor
DABOK ...	...	...	59 miles from Chitor
OODEYPORE	...	...	70 miles from Chitor

At Chitor there is an ancient fort, which is well worth a visit, the full account of which has been written under a different heading.

The city of Oodeypore presents an imposing appearance when approached from the east, *i.e.*, by the above route, the palace of the Maharana and that of the heir-apparent, and the great temple of *Jagannath*, also the houses of the Nobles with their turrets and copulas rising in airy elegance afford a pleasing contrast to the massive walls and pierced battlements of the city beneath.

---

## FORT OF CHITOR.



IN approaching Chitor from the west, on which side the Neemuch and Nusseerabad Railway and high road pass at a distance of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles, the road from either of these crosses the *Gambheri* river by a massive old bridge of grey limestone, with ten arches, all of pointed shape, except the sixth, which is semi-circular. When Chitor was the living capital of Meywar, the city with its palaces, houses and markets was up in the fort, and the buildings below formed merely an outer bazaar. The modern town is little more than a walled village with narrow crooked streets. It is called *Talhati* or the lower town of Chitor.

The fortress of Chitor stands up from the plains of Meywar as a bold hill-mass, rising 500 feet above the country at its base, or 1850 above sea-level, and extending north and south some  $3\frac{1}{3}$  miles, with a breadth mostly of about half a mile, but lessening at the southern extremity.

The ascent to the fort, which begins from the south-east angle of the town, is nearly a mile to the upper gate. There are two zigzag bends, and on the three portions thus formed are seven gates, one of which, however, has

only the basement left. From the gate at the foot, known as *Padal Pol* or *Patwan Pol*, the first portion runs north for 1,050 yards, passing through the nearly obliterated *Bhaira* or *Thuta* (broken) *Pol* abovementioned and the *Hanuman Pol* to the first bend. Here the second portion of 235 yards begins, and turning south, at once passes through the *Ganesh Pol* and continues to the *Jorla Pol*, just before the second bend. At this point the third portion of 280 yards, which turns again to the north, commences, and directly after leaving the bend passes through the *Luxman Pol*, continuing then to the upper or main gate the *Ram Pol*.

Immediately outside the lowest gate is a small square *chabutra*, or raised platform, with an erect stone on it, marking the spot where, during the siege of Chitor by *Bahadur Shah*, of Gujrat in 1535 A. D., Bagh Sing, the Chief of Deolia Partabgurbh, was killed.

Within the gate and a short way up the ascent, a footpath on the right leads to the little waterfall which descends from the cliff below the Gaumukh (cow-mouthed) reservoir.

Between the *Phuta* and the *Hanuman* gates there are, on the right hand, two other *chabutras*, each having an erect stone. These *chabutras* mark the spot where the renowned *Jaimul* of Bednor and his clansman *Kalla* were killed in Akbar's siege in 1568 A. D. The *chhatra*, or cenotaph on four pillars, is of *Kalla*, and the other, supported by six pillars, is *Jaimul's*.

The *Ram Pol* is a large handsome gate. Within the gate, on each side, is a hall or guard-room. Immediately

past the hall, on the left hand, a new and wide road, presently to be noticed, has been opened, leading to the north.

From the *Ram Pol* the visitor has two courses before him, either to thread the old lanes and bye-paths or to follow the new carriage road. By the former he will see more of the nooks and corners of the place in detail and its ruin and desolation; but, by the latter route, he at once gets an idea of the fort as a whole. He can see, as he passes, the principal buildings, and obtains the most commanding views.

The new road, or as for distinction it may be called drive, is therefore followed in this description.

Turning to the left, immediately after passing the gateway hall, the drive runs north between the parapet and the *Kukreswar Kund* or reservoir, then onwards beneath *Rutna Sinha's* palace, now commonly called the *Mahal of Hingal Aharia*.

Following first the wider route along the ridge from where the road from the *Ram Pol* ascends it on the north, the line goes east, soon passing the small *Lakhota* gate on the line of fortification a little below the road, and at the north-east corner of the fort. Then turning south, near a small Hindu temple on the right of the road, it continues in a straight run along the crest, with the old Jain tower of fame standing up grandly in front. The road passes close to the west side of this and a Jain temple immediately on its south.

The tower is locally called the *chhota* (or small) *Kir-tham*, or tower of fame. The old Jain tower, which is

said to have been built in 896 A. D., is eighty feet in height, and is adorned with sculptures and mouldings from base to summit. The tower consists of seven storeys with an internal narrow and cramped staircase.

Continuing south, the drive passes the temple of *Nilkunth* (the blue throat) *Mahadev*, said to be very old. Close to this is the *Suraj Pol*, or gate of the sun, which is the eastern entrance to the fort, and the next in importance to *Ram Pol* on the west. Here *Shain Dass*, the *Rao* of *Salumbar*, was killed in Akbar's siege, and his memorial *chabutra* is just inside the gate. A little further on, the road passes the large curved stone temple of *Smi-dheswar Mahadev*, and thence runs by the *Bhimlat* reservoir to the *Raj Tilla*, or State hill, on which are the ruins of the palace of *Chitrang Mori*, a prince of the *Puar* Rajput dynasty, which reigned here before the present family took Chitor, about 728 A. D. This hill constitutes the highest point of Chitor, and gives a magnificent view both of the most interesting buildings within the fort and of the plains around.

A little south of the *Raj Tilla*, at a ruined temple, the drive turns to the west, and, descending, gains the bund of the *Mori* tank in the southern loop of the oval, from which point it turns north along the valley, skirting the west ridge. From the ruined temple, just mentioned, to the great southern bastion overlooking the semi-detached hill of *Chitoria*, the distance is about three-quarters of a mile over ground easy to walk or ride, but not fitted for driving. On the bastion platform the only gun is an old one, about 12 feet long, with a bore of six inches.

Returning to the drive, where it leaves the *Mori* tank, it runs north, with here and there a ruined residence on either hand, but the particular owners of these first met with are not now distinctly remembered. Then on the right comes a small high walled enclosure, called the *Bhaksi* or jail. Beyond this, on the right, is the *chaugan*, or parade ground, and further on a tank with the island palace of *Rani Padmini*; and after that a succession of other tanks. Next on the ridge is seen the temple of the goddess *Kalka Mata*, the shrine and lower part of which, including the pillars, are said to have been built a thousand years ago though repaired in later times. Then come close together the ruined palaces of *Fatta Sing* and *Jaimul*. Now a branch of the drive goes near the large and more modern tower of victory, or the *Bara Kirtham*, as it is locally called. This tower is 30 feet wide at the base and more than 126 feet in height, the whole being covered with architectural ornaments and sculptures to such an extent as to leave no plain parts. This tower was built in the reign of *Rana Kumbha* (1418 to 1468 A. D.) to commemorate his victory over *Mahmud* of Malwa. It is nine storeys high, each of which is distinctly marked in the exterior. The stair inside is much wider and easier of ascent than in the older tower (*Chhota Kirtham*).

From the tower one may turn back a little to the south-west towards the *Mahasati* and *Gaumukh*, the former is a small wooded terrace, and here before the founding of Oodeypore was the place for the cremation of the few *Ranas* who died in peace at home; and the latter,

which is below the *Mahasati*, is called the *Gaumukh* (cow-mouthed) reservoir. The springs which issue from the cow's mouth are two or three in number.

In the same direction, south-west from the tower, but nearer than the above, is a large carved stone temple of *Mahadev Smiddheswar*, built by *Rana Kumbha*, as written by Tod.

Further north, and on the parapet, is a large temple of *Jatashankar Mahadev*, from the terrace of which a beautiful view of the lower town on the western plain is obtained. Visits to the foregoing places traced from the *Mahasati* to the *Jatashankar* temple must be made on foot from the Tower of Victory; now returning to it one may follow the branch road leading to the main drive. At their junction is situated *Kumbha's* temple, known as *Kumbhshyam*, and by its side is a small temple of *Mirabai*. On the east of the drive here is a group of elaborately carved Jain temples called *Sat-Bis-Deorian* or twenty-seven shrines.

Further north the *Bari Pol*, or great gate of the old *Mahal* grounds, is to the west of the drive. The *Mahal* is in ruins, but evidently was a lofty and spacious building.

The drive next passes the eastern end of the *Nau Kotha* magazine, a hall of massive pillars supporting an arched roof, now being repaired. This building is at the one extremity of a lofty wall, at the other, or west end of which, is a huge circular bastion with vaulted chambers, called the *Nau lakha Bhandar*, or the nine lakh treasury. In the same wall, midway between the magazine and bastion, is a carved stone temple-like build-



ing, the *Singar Chaunri*, containing a canopied masonry *dais* on which in olden times every Rana on his succession was first enthroned.

The drive from the *Mori* tank hitherto has to some extent followed the line of old roads now improved and made passable, and here it traverses the ruined *Moti Bazaar*. But further on the old tracks turn to the west, where the principal part of the city was, and in the direction of the *Ram Pol*, while the new drive continues direct to the north, passing on its left the *Ratneswar* tank and the palace of *Ratnasing* on the farther side, and then rising out of the valley mounts the northern loop of the ridge, where the new road from the *Ram Pol* comes up and from which this circuit of the fort was commenced.

## THE CITY OF OODEYPORE AND ITS ENVIRONS.

Oodeypore (City of Sunrise) the capital of the Native State of Meywar, in Rajputana, is situated in latitude  $24^{\circ} 35' 19''$  north, and longitude  $73^{\circ} 43' 23''$  east. Its population in 1881 numbered 38,214 souls, namely, 20,168 males and 18,046 females. The Hindus numbered 30,156 and the Mohamadans 8,058. The city of Oodeypore, with its palaces placed on a low ridge overlooking a romantic lake facing wooded hills, is one of the most beautiful and picturesque sights in India. To this place, after the capture of Chitor by Akbar in 1568 A. D., the Maharana Udey Sing of Meywar repaired and built himself a refuge among the mountains. Some years previously he had formed the lake, still called after him *Undey sagar*, at the entrance of the valley; he then raised a dyke, which formed the *Pichola* lake, and built a small palace on the adjoining hills, around which edifices soon arose. This place he called after his own name. In 1577 A. D., in the time of the famous Maharana Pratab Sing, Oodeypore was for a time occupied by the *Mogul* troops of Akbar under Mahabat Khan, but Pratab Sing gained possession of his capital in 1586. In 1769 the city was besieged by the Mahrattas under Madhoji Sindhia, and was only saved from capture by the vigour of the Dewan, *Amar Chand Barwa*, and by the cession of some important tracts of territory. The city has little or no trade of its own, and is solely maintained by the expenditure of the court.

The city is surrounded by a rampart, having circular bastions at intervals. The wall is further protected by a ditch filled from the lake, but on the southern side the ground rises so much that the water is unable to flow into it.

The city has the following principal gates :—

- I. *Suraj Pol* gate (Gate of the Sun) on the east.
- II. *Delhi* gate on the north-east.
- III. *Hati Pol* gate on the north.
- IV. *Chand Pol* gate (Gate of the Moon) on the west.
- V. *Kishen Pol* gate on the south.
- VI. *Udey Pol* gate on the east.

A short description will now be given of the places of interest which are outside of the above gates within a circuit of five miles.

I. Immediately outside the *Suraj Pol* gate is an inn, or *sarai*, for travellers. From this gate a road runs to the east. It is the high road leading to Chitor from the city.

II. Outside *Delhi* gate to the north, on a small hill, is situated the Travellers' Bungalow, and from this gate, at a distance of about half a mile on the north-east, is the Hindu burning ground, further on in the same direction is the royal crematory, approached by a different road from the same gate; a full account of this crematory is given under a different heading.

III. Immediately outside the *Hati Pol* gate is an inn, or *sarai*, for travellers, near which a huge building on a hill, called *Shamsher guruh*, lately used as a jail, comes into view. There is nothing important in the

building worth noticing. Further on is the Dâk Office, where tickets can be obtained for the journey from Oodeypore to Chitor. Opposite to the Dâk Office is the *Mahamahopadhaya* Kaviraja Shyamull Dass' garden. From this place the road goes in four directions.

On the north-east it leads to the Residency, which is a very beautiful and a commodious building, in which lives the Resident of Meywar; close to which, on the east, is the Post Office, a branch of which has also lately been established in the city to the great convenience of the public.

On the south-east the second branch goes to the Dâk Bungalow (Travellers' Bungalow).

On the west the third branch runs to the end of the *Pichola* Lake, where the Mission House is situated on an elevated ground, commanding a fine view of the lake and the surrounding hills, and it is specially a good place to view the overflow of the lake in the rainy season.

The fourth branch goes to the north. On the western side of the road is a walled arena called the *Chaugan* (Champ de Mars) where the *Dussehra* festivities are held every year, and which last about a week. The Maharana's procession comes there every morning, when an elephant fight and some other sports take place. On the same road are situated some bungalows which are occupied by the resident European gentlemen. Beyond the *Chaugan* on the eastern side of the road, is Messrs. Pheerozshaw & Co's shop, where everything can be obtained for the requirements of travellers. The same road behind the above shop is divided into two branches, one of which, on

the left hand, continues in a straight line for three miles to a place called *Bedla*, the residence of a first class noble. On the west of this road, about half a mile from Pheerozshaw's shop, there is a place which is much frequented by European gentlemen for target practice. The other branch on the right hand goes to *Eklingsji*, the sacred shrine of the Maharana's family deity. From Pheerozshaw's shop a road goes to the east and joins the Dâk Bungalow road after having passed the Residency, Post Office, and the Residency Surgeon's Bungalow, which latter is situated on a small hill.

IV. Immediately outside the *Chand Pol* gate a picturesque bridge unites the city with the opposite side of the lake, and the sparkling water on either side is edged with numerous ghâts, gay balconies and temples, shaded with dark foliage. On the opposite side of the lake, which is crossed by this bridge, there is a scanty population, having a few *Havilies* (mansions) of the nobles and some temples on the borders of the lake. There is nothing important outside the gate except the hill fort of *Sujjangurh*, to which there is a metalled road. At a short distance from the bridge, on the northern side, there is a gateway by the name of *Amba Pol*, which leads to the temple of the goddess *Amba Mata*. Any one wishing to go to *Sujjangurh* should pass through the *Brahma Pol* gate, which is near the *Amba Pol* gate on the west. From this gate the distance to *Sujjangurh* is three miles. The *Sujjangurh* hill was formerly called *Bansdara*, and is about 1,100 feet high above the level of the ground and 3,300 feet from that of the sea. The late Maharana

Sujjan Sing laid the foundation of the building, which is still in course of construction. A zigzag road has been made leading to the top of the hill. The palace is a very nice one, and commands a most picturesque and lovely view of the surrounding hills, the lake, and the Maharana's palaces. Near this fort, on the north-western side, is the small but beautiful lake of *Bari*.

V. This gate *Kishen Pol* is just below the *Machhla* hill, on the south of the city, from which a good metalled road goes to the *Kherwara* cantonment. About a mile from this gate lies the *Goverdhan Vilas* palace, a beautiful building, built by Maharana Sawrup Sing about thirty-five years ago, where there is a garden on the edge of a small tank. There are many hills near the place, which are used for sporting purposes by the Maharana.

VI. Just opposite the *Udey Pol* gate is the jail, built about two years ago, south of which are situated the barracks of the Maharana's army.

The best way of entering the city is by the double gateway of bold and effective design called the *Hati Pol* gate, which leads through the principal bazaar of the city. The first thing of interest which strikes the visitor's eye is the four-faced clock tower. Just opposite to the tower on the south is the Police Station.

There are several remarkable temples, the principal one is that of *Jagannath*, which was built by Maharana Jagat Sing I. (1628-1653). It possesses a fine porch and a lofty sanctuary covered with bold figured friezes and architectural ornament, and is confronted by a handsome shrine containing a large brazen image of *Garud* (sacred

bird), whilst flanking this to the north and south are small and well conceived temples dedicated to *Ganesh* and *Mahadev*. At the main entrance of this temple are two stone elephants.

Behind this temple there is a State school attended by boys and a small one for girls.

From this temple a bye-road goes to the *Sujjan Hospital*, the State dispensary.

Just opposite the dispensary is the *Kunvar-pada-Ka-Mahal*, or the palace of the heir-apparent. Although the structure is a large one, and is seen from a great distance, yet it contains nothing of interest.

Besides the State school and dispensary there are a Mission school and a hospital, situated near the grain market, *Dhan Mundi*, in the eastern part of the city.

There is also a hospital for women, called the *Walter Hospital*, after the name of Colonel Walter, who was here as Resident for many years. The hospital is on the southern side of the city and just below the Maharana's palace, under the superintendence of a lady doctor. The foundation stone of this hospital was laid by H. E. the Countess of Dufferin in 1885.

The palaces of the Maharana, the lake, the gardens and the Royal Crematory at the Ahar village will be described separately.

The city of Oodeypore is situated at an elevation of 2,064 feet above sea-level.

## THE MAHARANA'S PALACES.

The palace is a most imposing pile of a regular form, built of granite and marble, rising at least 100 feet from the ground, and flanked with octagonal towers, crowned with cupolas. Although built at various periods, uniformity of design has been very well preserved; nor is there in the east a more striking or majestic structure. It stands upon the very crest of a ridge running parallel to, but considerably elevated above, the margin of the lake. The terrace, which is at the east, and is the chief front of the palace, extends throughout its length, and is supported by a triple row of arches from the declivity of the ridge. The height of this arched wall is 50 feet, and although all is hollow beneath, yet so admirably is it constructed that an entire range of stables is built on the extreme verge of the terrace. From this terrace the city and the valley lie before the spectator whose vision is bounded only by the hills shutting out the plains; while from the summit of the palace nothing obstructs its range over lake and mountain.

The first gateway, called *Bari Pol*, or Great Gate, leading from the city, was built by Maharana Amar Sing I. (1597-1620). On both sides outside the gate are stationed the Maharana's sepoy, orderlies. One of the two towers erected on the right and left sides of the *Bari Pol* gate contains the big gong and the other the state drums. Beyond the gate there is a handsome triple doorway or *Tripolia*, built by Maharana Sangram Sing (1711-1734); and to the left or east of the intervening court-



yard, is a set of eight *Torans* (or sculptured archways supported by masonry shafts), erected and used by various Maharanas for the distribution of largesses by the weighing of their persons against gold and silver coins. Opposite to these *Torans* or archways, there is a building called *Kothar*, or the storehouse of edible things.

Passing under the *Tripolia*, one comes in view of the picturesque western facade of the palace range. Immediately to the right of the *Tripolia* gate is a small wall, across which elephant fights take place, which are seen by the Maharana from the roof on the west of an open small building on the *Tripolia* gate, called *Hava Mahal*.

Opposite to the *Tripolia* gate on the southern side, is a building which is used now-a-days as a Civil Court, and on the roof of which there is a large image of *Ganesh*, the god of abundance.

The best way for a visitor to see the palaces after passing the *Tripolia* gate, is that which is on the west of the courtyard near the middle. After ascending some steps he will see on his left hand a pillared hall, used by the Maharana for holding *Durbars* on certain occasions. Then he should turn to the right, where there is a small gate called the *Ganesh Dauri* (gate), which is the chief entrance to the upper storey. Passing up a flight of steps, the *Rai Angun* (Royal courtyard), a handsome old court is reached, dating from 1571 A. D. From this place four ways are used for seeing the palaces, the most convenient of which is mentioned here.

From *Rai Angun* court a way goes to the right hand, which will take the visitor to the *Chhoti Chitra-Shali*,

a court with walls inlaid with brilliant mirror mosaics of peacocks. Off this is a small pavilion with a medalion of the Rajput sun, and below a dado of curious raised and coloured plaster. A pair of small doorways with coloured wooden figures in relief of native and European men and women, leads to the *Pitam Niwas*, or Palace of Delight, decorated with glass and porcelain.

On the north of this court of *Chhoti Chitra-Shali* is the palace apartment called *Manak Mahal* (Palace of Rubies), and is a most curious apartment, the walls of which have a series of glazed niches filled with all kinds of English and China figures and vases of *Bohemian* glass ; all this glass work was done in it in 1857 A. D.

The visitors should go back by the same gate through which he entered the *Chhoti Chitra-Shali* Court ; and on the right there is a small doorway leading to the *Moti Mahal* (Palace of Pearls), built in 1828, and which is decorated with mirrors and coloured pictures. Near this is another apartment called *Bhim Bilas*.

After seeing *Moti Mahal*, the visitor should go by the same way to the *Chini-ki-Chitra-Shali*, built by Maharana Sangram Sing (1711-1734), which consists of a court and a pavilion with finely inlaid mirror work, with flowers, &c., on a ground of plaster. One small room is entirely covered with blue and gold porcelain tiles of Chinese make. Mixed up with these are some quaint Dutch porcelain tiles, the subjects being skating scenes, wind mills, boats and biblical scenes, &c. The walls of another small room are faced with dark blue and gold tiles of Chinese porcelain.

On the south of this court a passage leads to the roof of these pavilions, whence a very beautiful view of the lake and the city may be had. From this a way goes on the north and leads to the *Jash Mandir* palace, decorated with mirrors and coloured pictures.

Just outside the *Chini-ka-Chitra-Shani*, on the east is the *Dil Kushal* palace built by Maharana Karan Sing, and decorated with mirror work of painted and gilt backgrounds in the time of Maharana Shambhu Sing, the late Maharana's predecessor.

Outside the *Dil Kushal* palace, a way goes on the left to *Bari Mahal* (or the Garden Palace) which is an open garden surrounded by marble trellis kiosques, and pavilions with some handsome doors inlaid with ivory. The *Bari Mahal*, also called the *Amar Vilas*, was built by Maharana Amar Sing II. (1699-1711). In the centre of the court is a tank encased with huge slabs of marble. There are numerous carved wood doors worthy of illustration, and some curious slabs of marble, measuring three feet square cut with water channels in geometric devices. Handsome pavilions crown the upper terrace of this palace building and their domes are decorated inside and out with ornamental carvings.

† After seeing the *Bari Mahal* palace, the visitor will come back to the same *Rai Angun* court whence he began to see the palaces. On the east side of the *Rai Angun* court is the Maharana's jewel room, and on the west one way goes to the *Chandra* (Moon) *Mahal*, from which a good view is obtained of the lake.

After passing back the *Ganesh Dauri* the visitor should go in the western direction to see the *Karan Vilas* palace, built by Maharana KaranSing (1620-1628), a courtyard surrounded by a colonnade of pillars and a flattened edition of the cusped arches [adopted by the Rajputs of Meywar. On the roof of the colonnade is a curious metal instrument connected with astronomy, and from this spot one obtains a good view to the east over the lake, and to the west of the rear façade of the *Bari Mahal* palace. Below this *Karan Vilas* is a set of apartments with elegant windows overlooking the lake, but the roofs are too small for modern ideas of comfort, and are now occupied by lumber.

Outside the *Karan Vilas* a way turns to the south-east and takes the visitor to the *Khush Mahal*, built in A.D. 1844 by Maharana Sawroop Sing, now used for audiences and Council meetings, and consisting of a small courtyard with a colonnade at one end supporting the cusped form of arch as noted above.

After seeing the foregoing principal portion of the first range of palace buildings, the visitor should come back near *Ganesh Dauri*, and then he should go by the southern way to the great courtyard of the palace, passing through a small courtyard which is before the lofty but plain structure accommodating the *zenana*. In this great courtyard there are two ways, the one, which goes to the east, leads downwards to the Maharana's stables, and the other, which goes to the south, takes the visitor to the *Shambhu Niwas* palace.

In the courtyard of the *Shambhu Niwas* palace on the west is the *Kunwar-Pada-ka-mahal* (or the palace of the heir-apparent), a picturesque two-storeyed erection of Maharana Karan Sing's time (1620-1628).

Beyond this again, to the south, is the modern villa called the *Shambhu Niwas* palace, which was built in the time of the late Maharana's predecessor, Maharana Shambhu Sing, after the European fashion, commanding a very fine view of the lake beneath on the west.

This palace was designed by an Englishman "who when all was done should have been tenderly dropped into the lake at the foot of its walls." The above words were written by a representative of the press, and are sufficient to describe the beauty of the palace.

The drawing-room in the palace facing the lake on the west is thoroughly furnished, having a crystal throne, chairs, table and bed. The *punkha* rods are cut glass with blue and purple velvet fringes. Adjoining this room is another one having some nice portraits, and is well furnished. From this roof a staircase leads to the upper storey of the palace where there is a pretty drawing-room; the southern side of which has a very fine view of the gardens just below.

Descending the ridge towards the lake the visitor comes to a range of palace buildings on its margin. At the beginning of the range on the south is the *Akhara Mahal*, or Court for Athletes; it has at its northern end a raised terrace with square slabs of marble cut with water channels in intricate geometric devices. In the wall at the back of this terrace is a window surrounded with por-

celain plates, and the walls of a small apartment of the terrace are faced entirely with porcelain plates of the old willow pattern, the effect of which is very good.

Near this is the *Himmat Vilas* built by Maharana Bheem Sing in Colonel Tod's time, with some English pictures on its walls.

After seeing these palaces the visitor should come back outside the *Akhara Mahal* to the road which joins the gardens on the *Bari Pol* bund or the great dam of the Pichola lake. Near this bund, and adjoining the southern part of the *Shambhu Niwas* palace, a huge palace is in course of construction.

## THE MAHARANA'S GARDENS.

Just beneath the *Shambhu Niwas* palace there lie the State gardens on the southern side. The western extremity of the gardens is the great bund of the *Pichola* lake, on which there is also a carriage drive leading to the *Dud Talai*, a small tank below the fortified hill of *Eklingurh*, an enormous piece of ordnance in this fort is said to have been mounted in 1770 A.D., during the siege of Oodeypore by *Madhoji Sindhia*. From the *Dud Talai* a branch of the main road runs to the *Khas Odi* and the other goes to the gardens.

At first these gardens were called *Gulab Bagh* (Rose Garden) and were not very large. But the late Maharana, by amalgamating the surrounding gardens and fields, made them more extensive and named them after his own name, *Sujjan Niwas* gardens.

A walled fence has been made all round the gardens, and the gardens have been placed under a European Superintendent.

Many carriage drives have been made in the gardens, and the gardens have been greatly improved within the last few years.

Now I commence from the western end of the gardens to give an account of all the points of interest.

The most western part of the gardens is called *Samor*, below the great bund of the *Pichola* lake. There is a marble statue of a beautiful woman pouring forth water from a marble vessel held in her hand; the water comes from an aperture in the bund.

Near that place there is a grove of *Ketkis* (*pandanus adoratissimus*), which looks very beautiful. Small paths run in various directions from this place.

In this *Samor*, whence the water pipes have been laid in the gardens for irrigation purposes, a big fountain has been erected, and it is one of the largest and handsomest in India. It plays every afternoon, and has got 102 jets, all of which can play at the same time, or separately if desired. The water from this bronze English-made fountain falls into a huge basin at the base, which is enclosed by a railing of open carved white marble, two feet high. This basin is edged with yellow marble from *Jeysulmere*.

The other fountain is erected about 1,000 yards from the above, and is also a very handsome one.

Near the smaller fountain is the beautiful green used for cricket. From this cricket ground the Victoria Hall is seen, which is now in course of construction. This hall is being built in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, and will contain a public library, a museum of the indigenous products of Meywar, and a reading room. This hall will be a very beautiful building, and will add greatly to the beauty of the gardens, besides being a source of pleasure and instruction to the public. A statue of the Queen-Empress will be erected in front of the building.

Behind this hall is a deer-park, in which there are *Sambhar*, barking deer, common deer, &c. The park has been enclosed by an iron fence.

The menagerie, which is on the southern side, also deserves notice. It contains at present only one lion,



four tigers, two ordinary panthers and a bear, but their number is being gradually increased.

The next thing to be mentioned here is the fernery, close to the menagerie. If wound up, the water from the pipes in the fern house begins to fall in torrents and looks like rain-fall. The next object of interest is the duck house, but it has a poor collection of water birds.

Further west of the duck house there is a small pond, where flourishes the beautiful *Victoria Regia*, the lotus of America. On the edge of this pond stands a small marble elephant.

Outside the eastern part of the gardens towards the north is the Bard School, opposite which is the small but handsome garden of my father Rai Mehta Panna Lal, C.I.E., the Prime Minister.

The length of the *Sujjan Niwas* gardens is about three-quarters of a mile, and the breadth is not more than one quarter of a mile.

The total length of the carriage drives in the gardens is about seven miles.

## THE PICHOLA LAKE AND ITS PALACES.

The famous *Pichola* lake, which lies on the west of the capital, is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles long by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  broad; the dam is 334 yards long, 101 thick at the top, increasing towards the base; the height of the dam above the water is 37 feet. The stream, which has been dammed up to form the lake, comes from the west. The bold expanse of the lake stretches away beyond from under the lofty palace of the Maharana and the low yet extensive islands fringed with marble piazzas enclosing luxuriant orange gardens interspersed with sombre cypresses, towering palms and gilded minarets shooting up here and there, the whole resting upon a background of the dark and lofty Aravalis forms a scene unsurpassed by any other in India.

One who wishes to see the lake and its island palaces closely should take the boat from the northern end of the lake, where there is a small ghat or landing place. At a short distance from that place is the bridge which joins the city with its other western part. The lake on the southern side of the bridge is edged with numerous ghats, temples, and other big buildings on both sides while on the east a very nice view of the city and the Maharana's palaces is obtained.

The first building situated on the lake which strikes the eye of the visitor is called the *Mohan Mandir*, a small and open building.

Opposite to this is the *Tripolia* or (triple door) *Gangaur* ghat, where in the month of March or April the image of the goddess *Gangaur*, adorned with rich

clothes and precious ornaments, accompanied by many females, is brought from the palace and is seated on her throne close to the water's edge. The females there form a circle around the goddess, unite hands, and move round the image, singing hymns, some in honour of the goddess of abundance and others on love and chivalry. The Maharana also makes a boat procession in the lake and adds lustre to the scene. Every turret and balcony is crowded with spectators to see this most beautiful and imposing sight.

Further on another building, called the *Jagniwas* palace, is seen. This island palace was built by Maharana Jagat Sing II. (1734-1751), and is a collection of small apartments, courts and gardens, which afford the Maharana a pleasant retreat at certain seasons of the year. Viewed from the shores of the lake, and on approaching it by water, its pinnacles and domes make an effective and varied outline.

On landing at first a small courtyard is seen, whence two ways take their course—one, which goes to the right, takes the visitor to the new palace *Sujjan Vilas*, built by the late Maharana, and the other, to the left, takes him to the old palaces built and repaired under different Maharanas.

In the new palace *Sujjan Vilas* some mirror decorations in pavilions flanking a tank for bathing are in excellent native taste. In the upper storey of this palace some paintings have been excellently done.

In the old palaces the visitor should first go to the *Dhola Mahal* (white palace), built of marble, in front of

which is situated the *Nahar-ka-Hauz*, or reservoir, which has deep channels of masonry, surrounding flower-beds and palms and some pavilions of great beauty decorated with mosaics of glass.

Some old glass arabesques of the same character, but of great elegance and refined taste, cover the walls of the garden of the palace *Khush Mahal*, which is next to be seen.

The *Dilaram* palace, which is near this, has a small garden with an open colonnade facing the lake towards the Oodeypore palace. There are some orange-trees in the garden of this palace, the fruit of which is most delicious.

After this comes the *Bara Mahal* (Great Palace), a largish open court with a handsome pavilion to the south, and some coloured frescoes of elephants adorn the lower portions of the walls of the courtyard, from which a way goes to the upper storey which is called the *Shambhu Prakash*. This is a modern classical villa built by the late Maharana's predecessor, and is not quite in keeping with the oriental surroundings.

If the visitor looks towards the west from this palace he will see two small buildings on the lake, the nearer of which is called *Arsi Vilas*, and the remoter is a small platform near which in the summer season there grow plenty of lotus flowers.

After visiting the above, the next island palace, called the *Jagmandir*, is worth a visit. Maharana Jagat Sing commenced this (1628-1653), and built the domed pavilion, or *Gul Mahal*, which was occupied by Prince

*Khurram*, afterwards *Emperor Shahjahan*, while in revolt against his father, *Jahangeer*. Here also several European families were lodged and hospitably entertained by Maharana Saurup Sing during the mutiny. In this island palace, except the *Gul Mahal*, all the gardens, pavilions, and courts were built by Maharana *Sungram Sing*. The *Gul Mahal* is the principal building in the island and is in fair order; the interior of this building is decorated with some bold mosaic in jasper, agate, and onyx. Besides this *Gul Mahal* there is another palace on the eastern side made of twelve marble stones, and on the western there are some other palaces, gardens, and a little *chapel* erected to the Mohammedan saint *Kapur*.

At a short distance from the southern end of the lake there is a palace called *Khas Odi*, almost entirely rebuilt in the time of the present Maharana. From the roof a very nice and charming view of the hills, lake, and the palaces can be had. To this palace a small walled enclosure is attached, where a fight between tigers and pigs takes place whenever his Highness wishes to indulge in that sport.

## THE VILLAGE OF AHAR AND THE ROYAL CREMATORY.

Amongst the objects of archæological interest in Meywar may be noticed the ruins of the ancient city of *Ahar*, or *Ar*, three miles east of the capital. It is said to have been founded by *Asaditya* upon the site of the still more ancient capital *Tambanugri*, where dwelt the *Tuar* ancestors of *Vickramaditya* before he obtained Ujjain. From *Tambanugri* its name was changed to *Anandpur*, and at length to *Ahar*, which gave the patronymic of *Aharia* to the *Gehlot* race. Vestiges of immense mounds still remain to the eastward called *Dhulkot* (or fort destroyed by ashes of volcanic eruption), in which sculpture, pottery, and coins are to be found.

Some very ancient Jain temples are still to be traced, erected apparently from the debris of shrines still older.

Near this village is the *Mahasati*, or the crematory containing the cenotaphs of all the Ranas since the valley became their residence; most of them mark the places where the Chiefs have been burnt with their wives and slave-girls, and there are rude effigies showing the number of women burnt with the Chiefs. Some of the cenotaphs are mere monuments of Ranas who died or were killed at a distance from their capital.

The cenotaph of the renowned Maharana Amer Sing is the most conspicuous; but the cenotaphs of all are very elegant,—vaulted roofs supported by handsome columns raised on lofty terraces, the architraves of enor-

mous single blocks, all of white marble from the quarries of *Rajnugur*, a town in Meywar.

Maharana Sungram Sing's *Chhatri*, or cenotaph, is also a fine building, though unfinished. This is one of the largest of the cenotaphs, and has some handsome friezes of sculptures.

Now-a-days two cenotaphs—one of the late Maharana Sujjan Sing, and one of his predecessor Maharana Shambhu Sing—are in course of construction.

The entrance is by a gateway on the eastern face of a masonry wall surrounding the enclosure.

To this place there is a road, which continues its run to Chitor.

## GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON MEYWAR.

Meywar, perhaps the oldest of the Rajput States, extends from  $25^{\circ} 58'$  to  $23^{\circ} 49' 12''$  north latitude, and  $75^{\circ} 51' 30''$  to  $73^{\circ} 7'$  east longitude. Its extreme length from north to south is 148 miles, and its extreme breadth from east to west is 163 miles, with a total area of 12,670 square miles. The total population, according to the census of 1881, was returned at 1,494,220.

It is bounded on the north by the British district of Ajmere; on the east by the states of Boondi, Tonk and districts of Jawad and Neemuch; on the south by Pratabgurh, Banswara, Dungarpur and Idar; and on the west by Sirohi and Marwar. The northern and eastern portions of the State comprise generally an elevated plateau of fine open undulating country, sloping gradually to the north-east, while in the south and west the country is entirely covered with rocks, hills, and dense jungle.

**MOUNTAINS.**—The whole of the mountainous country from the borders of Dungepur on the south to the confines of Sirohi on the west, is politically known as the Hilly Tracts of Meywar, and embraces the wildest portions of the Aravali mountains, which form the great feature of Meywar. Nearly the whole country is mountainous and hilly, of which the highest is at Kumulgurh, reaching the height of 3,568 feet above sea-level.

**GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.**—These mountains are chiefly of granite, the valley being of variegated quartz. Slate is found in some places. The chief metal found



is iron, mines of which are worked in the eastern portion of the State, but not to any great extent. Tin and zinc were formerly excavated at Jawar, 24 miles south of Oodeypore city, but now remain unworked. Copper and lead are also found in some places. Of precious stones, garnets and carbuncles are procurable in the Bhilwara district.

**LAKES.**—There are numerous tanks and lakes throughout the State, some being of great magnitude. The finest are the *Dhebur* or *Jeysamand*, the *Rajsamand*, the *Udeysagar*, and the *Pichola* lakes.

The first named is situated some thirty miles to the south-east of Oodeypore city. It is, perhaps, the largest sheet of artificial water in the world. It is about nine miles long by five miles broad, and covers an area of about twenty-one square miles. The masonry dam is 1,000 feet long by 95 feet high, 50 feet wide at the base and 15 feet at the top. Its greatest depth is said to be about 80 feet. This lake, which lies at an elevation of 960 feet above the sea, was constructed by Maharana Jeysing at the close of the 17th century. The present Maharana has made a fair weather road to the above lake from Oodeypore.

The *Rajsamand* lake, situated some forty miles to the north of the capital, is three miles long and one-and-a-half miles broad. It was commenced by Maharana Rajsing in 1661, and took seven years to build, at a cost of 96 lakhs of rupees. On the south lies the town of *Rajnagar* and to the south-east the town of *Kankrauli* (with its celebrated temple on its embankment); the

northern part of which, nearly 200 yards long and 70 yards thick, lies between two hills, and is entirely faced with white marble from the adjacent quarries, with flights of steps of the same material, from the summit to the water's edge. It is surmounted by handsome pavilions and exquisitely decorated with marble arches. These pavilions are beautifully carved and command a very fine view of the lake, and are therefore worth a visit.

The third (*Udaysagar* lake) situated eight miles from the capital, is nearly of the same size, two-and-a-half miles long by one-and-a-half miles wide. The hills around of every variety of shape thickly wooded and studded with the Maharana's shooting boxes, produce a very picturesque effect.

The *Pichola* lake has been separately described.

RIVERS.—The chief rivers are the *Chambal*, the *Banas*, the *Khari*, and the *Jakkum*.

The *Chambal* can scarcely be considered a river of Meywar, as only a few miles of its long course run through the State, and that only at a projecting point under *Bhainsrorgurh* near the boundary of *Kotah*.

The *Banas* rises in the midst of the Aravalis, some three miles south-west of *Kumulgurh*, and finally it leaves the State near *Deoli* in the extreme north-east corner. It afterwards unites with the *Khari* on the borders of Ajmere and Jeypur and ultimately falls into the *Chambal* beyond *Boondi* after a course of about 300 miles.

The *Khari* rises in the *Dawair* district of *Mairwara*, and finally falls into the *Banas* on the Jeypur border, after a course of 115 miles.

The *Jakkum* river takes its rise in the south-west corner of the State near *Chota Sadri*, and then joins the *Som* river near *Babrana*, in the hilly tracts. Throughout almost in its whole course it flows through nothing but rock and jungle, and the scenery in many places is very striking.

Besides these rivers there are many other small rivers which need no mention.

FLORA.—In the plains, cotton, oilseeds, jawar, bajra, and Indian corn are sown in the rains ; in the cold weather barley, gram, wheat, sugarcane, opium and tobacco. Many kinds of flower and fruit trees can be grown.

FAUNA.—Camels and cattle are said not to be numerous. Sheep and goats are very plentiful. Good horses are scarce. Deer of many species are found among the mountains and forests. Wild boars, hyenas, jackals, hares, porcupines, monkeys, wolves, foxes, and bears are also found. The tiger is found in some places, while panthers are numerous. There are many kinds of birds, including parrots, vultures, hawks, herons, cranes, partridge, pigeons, peacocks, wild ducks, &c.

Among the reptiles, serpents and alligators are worth noticing here. There are many kinds of fish in the lakes and rivers here, and very good fishing is to be had at certain seasons of the year.

FORESTS.—The Aravalis are, as a rule, well covered with bamboos, and low wood. The *Bansi* and *Dhrayawad* forests in the south-east corner of the State contain the largest and most valuable timber. *Mahuwa* and mango trees grow in great abundance in the valleys.

POPULATION.—The census of 1881 returns the population at 1,494,220, occupying 324,136 houses in seven towns and 5,715 villages. Density of population, 117·93 persons per square mile; number of houses per square mile, 25·58; of persons per house, 4·61. Taking the classification according to sex, there were 772,685 males and 670,459 females, exclusive of the 51,076 Bheels undetermined as to sex.

There are three tribes, who may be regarded as aboriginals, namely the *Mhairs*, on the north-west, the *Bheels*, on the south; and the *Meenas* on the north-east. The *Mhairs* and *Meenas* live in villages, but the *Bheels* generally occupy a *Pal*, i.e., a number of hovels each built upon a hillock at some little distance from its neighbour.

TRADE.—Meywar is not noted for any particular manufactures. Artisans can produce arms of all kinds, ivory and wooden bangles, &c. At Bhilwara vessels of mixed metal are manufactured, which are largely exported. The stone-cutters at *Rikhabdev* in the hilly tracts make toys and images of marble and of the greenish serpentine stones found there. Opium and cotton are the chief exports of Meywar.

COMMUNICATIONS.—Communications in Meywar are in a primitive state. From the city of Oodeypore a metalled road runs to Chitor, 70 miles distant, where it joins the Rajputana-Malwa Railway. A fair weather road has also been made from Oodeypore city to *Desuri* pass via *Rajnugar* (40 miles), total distance about 75 miles; through the Aravali range. A new road is also in course of preparation from the city of Oodeypore to

Nathdwara *via* Eklingji. A metalled road also connects Oodeypore with the *Kherwara* cantonment, the head quarters of the Meywar Bheel Corps. The distance is about 50 miles. There are two dâk bungalows on this road, one at *Barapal*, 16 miles from Oodeypore, and the other at *Parshad*, 14 miles from *Barapal*.

METEOROLOGY.—The average rainfall at the capital is 28 inches. In summer the thermometer seldom reaches 100 degrees, while in winter it never sinks below 59 degrees.

The important towns and places of interest are given in alphabetical order :—

AHAR—(*see* page 28),

BHILWARA—An important mercantile town containing some 2,000 houses, mostly of traders and shopkeepers, situated on the Neemuch and Nusseerabad Railway, distant 72 miles from each place and about 80 miles north-east of Oodeypore. It is considered the second emporium of trade in Meywar, and is in addition noted for the excellence and durability of its tinning work. There is a cotton press opened by the *Mofussil Company* of Bombay. There is also a school and a dispensary.

CHARBHUJA—A *Vishnu* temple, situated in the town of *Gadbor*, 60 miles north of Oodeypore, and much resorted to by pilgrims.

CHITOR (*see* page 1).

EKLINGJI AND NAGDA—A shrine sacred to *Mahadev*, the family deity to the Maharana, and situated in a narrow defile, 14 miles north of Oodeypore. The fane is of white marble and ample dimensions, under an open

vaulted temple supported by columns, and fronting the four-faced divinity is the brazen bull, *Nanda* of natural size. The lake near *Eklingji* is very picturesque, with a collection of temples beautifully situated on the dam and surrounded by hills. From Oodeypore there is a good metalled road to *Eklingji*. The village of *Nagda* is near *Eklingji*, where *Bapa Rawal* is said to have been brought up early in the eighth century. The antiquities of the locality are, therefore, at least historically important. The most interesting ancient structures at *Nagda* are two temples called *Sas-Babu-ka-Mandir*. Both are in the first rank as specimen of Jain architecture, and are exceedingly ornate and comparatively perfect.

**JAHAZPUR.**—A town containing some 2,000 houses, lying at the foot of a fort built on an isolated hill. Guarding an important pass leading from Bundi into Meywar in the north-east corner of the State. The population of the Jahazpur district is nearly altogether composed of *Meenas*. The fort of Jahazpur is large and strong, and consists of two similar ramparts, one within the other, a considerable space intervening. Each has a good ditch and numerous round bastions. It is about 120 miles north-east of Oodeypore. Near Jahazpur at the distance of ten miles, is the Deoli cantonment.

**KUMULGURH FORT.**—The fort was erected by *Rana Kumbha* in the fifteenth century on the site of the more ancient fortress of which mountaineers long held possession. The fortress is situated on a steep and craggy mountain, rising to the height of 3,568 feet above the sea

and 700 feet above the pass below, which it commands. The fort is situated on the north-west frontier of Meywar.

**KANKRAULI.**—This temple, the shrine of *Dwarkadheesh*, one of the seven forms of Krishna, is situated on the southern bank of the *Rajsamand* lake. The town of *Kankrauli* is 40 miles north of Oodeypore. The temple commands a very fine view of the lake.

**MANDULGURH FORT.**—This fort lies some 96 miles north-east of Oodeypore, and about the same distance south-east from Ajmere. It is about half a mile long with a low rampart wall and bastions encircling the crest of the Hill.

**NAHARMUGRA.**—Is situated about 14 miles from Oodeypore on the east. There are many hills covered with thick jungle, in which pigs, deer and other wild beasts abound. There are many shooting boxes in the *Naharmugra* hill, which is the favourite *Shikargah* (hunting ground) of the Maharana. The Maharana's palace and the gardens at *Naharmugra* are very beautifully situated. From Oodeypore a road goes to *Naharmugra*.

**NATHDWARA.**—This famous shrine of *Krishna* is situated about 25 miles north-east of Oodeypore. It is a large walled town on the right bank of the *Banas* river. The shrine owes its celebrity to the image of *Krishna* (said to be the same as that at Muttra) who was deified between eleven and twelve centuries before Christ, and it is, consequently, one of the most frequented places of pilgrimage. *Krishna* was proscribed by the Emperor Aurungzebe and the god was subsequently conducted to *Nathdwara* by

Rana Raj Sing of Meywar about 1671 A.D. Now the present Nathdwara, which was formerly called *Siad*, contains many thousand inhabitants. The priests of this shrine belong to the *Vullabhacharyan* sect. There are three or four gardens at Nathdwara. The palace of the *Goswamiji*, or the high priest, is very beautiful. There is a school and a dispensary.

OODEYPORE.—The capital of the Meywar State (see page 8).

RIKHABDEV.—This famous Jain temple, sacred to *Rikhabnath*, is supposed to have been built in 1375. *Rikhabdev* lies 40 miles south of Oodeypore and 10 north of *Kherwara* cantonment. The temple is famed for its sculpture, and is a great resort for pilgrims from Gujrat and elsewhere. There is a road from Oodeypore to *Rikhabdev*.



## HISTORICAL NOTE ON MEYWAR.

The Oodeypore family is the highest in dignity among the Rajput Chiefs of India, being the elder branch of the *Suryavansa*, or Children of the Sun. The ruling Chief is considered by Hindus to be the direct representative of Rama, from whom was descended *Kanaksen*, who was the founder of the Oodeypore family, about 144 A. D. The families of Dungarpur, Banswara and Pratabgurh are offshoots from the same line. No State in India made a more courageous or prolonged resistance to the Mahommadans than Oodeypore. It is the boast of the family that they never gave a daughter in marriage to any of the Mahommadan Emperors. They belong to the *Sisodia* sect of the great *Gehlot* clan, often called the "Nobles of the Rajputs." The foundation of the *Gehlot* dynasty in Rajputana was effected by *Bapa Rawal*, who is said to have established himself in Chitor and Meywar in 728 A. D. It was by this prince that *Muhammad Kasim*, the lieutenant of the *Khalif Walid*, is supposed to have been defeated upon his advance to Chitor after the conquest of *Sind* ; but the story of the advance of the *Sind Arabs* into Central India is of dubious authenticity. Between *Bapa* and the accession of *Samarsi* to the throne of Oodeypore, a period of somewhat exceeding four centuries intervened. In 1193, the sovereignty of Chitor was given to the younger branch ; the elder, having been expelled, founded the city of *Dungarpur* in the wilderness and became the ancestor of the ruling family of that State.

In 1201, *Rahup* was in possession of Chitor. He changed the title of his family and tribe from the clan name of Gehlot to the sub-divisional name of *Sisodia* and that of its prince from *Rawal* to *Rana*. During the next fifty years, from *Rahup* to *Lakhunsi*, nine princes of Chitor were installed. In the rule of this last named prince (1275 to 1290) *Alla-ud-din* besieged *Chitor*, and in 1303 the Imperial forces captured and sacked it. It was, however, almost immediately afterwards recovered by *Hameer*, who then ruled in Meywar. The chroniclers of Meywar quoted by *Tod* (*Annals of Rajputana*) dwell with pride on the exploits of the great Rana *Hameer*. According to these he is said to have marched to meet *Mahmud* who was advancing to recover his lost possessions, to have defeated and taken prisoner the Emperor, and not to have liberated him till he had agreed to the surrender of Ajmere, *Ranthanbhaur Nagore*, and other towns. He is also reported to have received homage from the princes of Marwar, Jeypur, Boondi and Gwalior, and to have rendered the power of Oodeypore as solid and extensive as it had been before the Musalman occupation of *Hindustan*. From the death of *Hameer* for a century and a half the arms of Meywar were successful, until the reign of *Sanga*, the competitor of *Babar*, when Meywar had reached the summit of its prosperity. Its boundaries were then the *Pilakhal* (yellow rivulets) near *Biana* on the north, the *Sind* river on the east, *Malwa* on the south, and an impenetrable barrier of hills on the west—thus either ruling directly or exercising over-lordship over the major part of Rajputana.

Such was the condition of Oodeypore at the date of the Emperor Babar's invasion. The *Tartar* prince having defeated *Ibrahim Lodi* and secured Agra and Delhi turned his arms against *Rana Sanga* of Chitor. *Sanga* marched towards Agra, the opposing forces met between *Biana* and *Sikri* (Fatehpore). A successful attack by the Rajput troops on the *Tartar* advance guard forced the *Mahommadans* for their own security to throw up entrenchments in which *Babar* was blockaded for about a fortnight. But on the 15th of March 1527 *Babar* drew up his army in front of the entrenchments. A desperate conflict ensued for several hours, in which the Musalmans ultimately obtained a decisive victory. *Rana Sanga* retired with the wreck of his gallant army towards the hills resolved never to enter his capital except in triumph. He did not long survive his defeat, being succeeded in 1530 by his son, *Rana Rutna*, who ruled five years and lost his life in a personal encounter with the prince of *Boondi*. He was succeeded by his son, *Vikramaditya*. The prince, by his haughty demeanour, alienated the attachment of his vassals. *Bahadur*, the Sultan of Gujarat, taking advantage of their disaffection, invaded Meywar, defeated the *Rana*, and laid siege to Chitor. This sacred fortress was long and bravely defended, and when further opposition became vain, 1,300 females were immolated; then, throwing open the gates, the survivors of the devoted garrison rushed upon the enemy and sold their lives at the highest price. The advance of *Humayun*, son of *Babar*, compelled *Bahadur* to retire towards Gujarat, *Rana Vikramaditya* was then restored to his

capital, but was shortly after deposed and put to death by his nobles.

After a short usurpation by *Banbir*, a spurious member of the family, the throne of Meywar was occupied by Rana *Udey Sing*, the youngest son of Rana *Sanga*. During his rule in 1568 Chitor was taken by the Emperor Akbar with great slaughter. On the loss of his capital the Rana retired to the valley of the Girwa in the *Aravali Hills*, where he founded the city of Oodeypore, henceforth the Capital of Meywar. *Udey Sing*, who survived the loss of *Chitor* only four years was succeeded in 1572 by his son, *Pratab*, who disclaimed submission to the conqueror. After sustaining repeated defeats, *Pratab* fled into the deserts towards *Sind*. Fortune suddenly turned in his favour. By the help of some money given by his minister, *Bhama Sha*, he collected his struggling adherents, surprised and cut to pieces the Imperial forces at *Dawair* and he followed up his advantage with such celerity and energy that in a short campaign he recovered nearly all Meywar, of which he retained undisturbed possession until his death. *Pratab* was succeeded by his son, *Amra*, who enjoyed tranquility during the remainder of Akbar's reign.

But Akbar's successor, *Jahangeer*, determined upon the entire subjugation of Meywar. In prosecuting this design he was twice defeated by Rana *Amra*. He then tried the experiment of setting up *Sugra*, the brother of the late Rana *Pratab*, in opposition to his nephew, *Amra*. After seven years *Sugra*, ashamed of his own apostacy from the national cause, put Rana *Amra* in possession of

the ancient capital. On this, *Jahangeer* equipped an overwhelming force to crush the Rana. This army, which was commanded by *Parwaiz*, the Emperor's son, was entangled in the pass of *Khamnor* and suffered a complete defeat. *Jahangeer* then despatched *Mahabat Khan*, the ablest of his generals, to take command. *Mahabat's* success falling far short of the Emperor's expectations, he removed the Imperial camp to *Ajmere* with the avowed intention of placing himself at the head of the troops employed against the Rana. The army was, however, really commanded by his son, *Sultan Kurram*, afterwards *Shah Jahan*. Although the Rajputs had generally been successful in battle, yet their diminished numbers rendered further opposition to the colossal power of the empire hopeless. In this state of things *Rana Amra* made his submission to the emperor in 1613. He was magnanimously treated by *Jahangeer*, who lavished honours and distinctions upon him and his son, *Karan Sing*. *Rana Amar's* proud spirit could not brook dependence however disguised, and in 1616 he abdicated in favour of his son *Karan* who died in 1628, and was succeeded by his son *Jagat Sing*, who was succeeded by his son, *Raj Sing*, in 1654. *Shah Jahan's* mother having been a princess of the house of *Jeypur*, he was well-disposed towards the Rajputs, who enjoyed peace during his reign.

*Aurangzebe's* attempt to impose a capitation tax on Hindus was successfully resisted by the Rajputs, who defeated the Imperial armies in several sanguinary conflicts. An accommodation was, however, effected in 1681 by which the emperor relinquished the odious tax.

In the same year Rana Raj Sing died of his wounds, and was succeeded by his son, *Jey Sing*, who ruled in peace twenty years. He was succeeded by his son, Amar Sing, who took an active part in the quarrels between the sons of *Aurungzebe*. Intolerance had rendered the Emperor obnoxious to the Rajputs and led to the formation of a confederacy by the rulers of Marwar, Meywar and Jeypur (Amber) for the purpose of throwing off Mahommadan supremacy. In 1713, during the reign of the Emperor Farukhsyer, the confederates commenced their operations by expelling the Mogul officers and razing the mosques which had been erected upon the sites of Hindu temples. This triple confederacy was but of short duration. *Ajeet*, Raja of Marwar, made separate terms with the Emperor to whom he gave a daughter in marriage; and Rana Amra soon afterwards concluded a treaty with the Emperor, which, though it admitted subordination, was in all other respects favourable. Amar Sing died in 1711, and was succeeded by *Sangram Sing*, in whose time the power of the Mogul Empire rapidly declined, and the *Mahratta* began to overrun Central India. *Sangram* was succeeded by his son, *Jagat Sing II*. The Emperor having ceded the *chauth* (or one-fourth of the revenue) to the Mahrattas, who were already in possession of Malwa and Gujrat, exacted it from the States of Rajputana as being dependencies of the Empire. In 1736 Peshwa Baji Rao concluded a treaty with the Rana, by which the latter was compelled to pay *chauth* to the amount of £16,000. The Oodeypore family refused to inter marry with Rajput families who had given

daughters in marriage to the Mogul Emperors. This refusal was keenly felt by the other Rajputs. The re-admission to the honour of matrimonial connection with the Oodeypore family was always stipulated in the coalition formed by the Rajput Chiefs against the *Moguls*, and it was further agreed that the sons of Oodeypore princesses should succeed a father in preference to elder sons by other mothers. This led to family dissensions, which the Mahrattas artfully turned to their advantage. On the death of *Sewai Jey Sing* of Jeypore in 1743 his eldest son, *Ishri Sing*, was proclaimed Raja but a strong party supported the claim of *Madho Sing*, a younger son by the sister of the Rana of Oodeypore, who espoused the cause of his nephew; while *Ishri Sing* obtained assistance from Sindhia, and in an engagement, which took place in 1747, the Rana was defeated. He then called in the aid of Holkar under an engagement to pay him £64,000 on the deposition of *Ishri Sing*. A dose of poison gave *Madho Sing* the throne and Holkar the money. Rana Jagat Sing died in 1752 and was succeeded by his son, *Pratab Sing II.*, during whose short rule of three years Meywar was plundered by the Mahrattas.

He was succeeded by his son, *Rana Raj Sing II.*, who ruled seven years, during which the ravages and exactions of the Mahrattas continued. He was succeeded by his son, *Rana Ursi*, in 1762. This Rana made himself unpopular with most of his Chiefs, who formed a party to depose him and to set up a youth named *Rutna Sing*, alleged to be a posthumous son of

the late Rana. A civil war ensued. Both parties applied for assistance to the *Mahrattas* who were ever ready to act as armed arbitrators. *Sindhia* took the part of the Pretender. In a severe battle, fought near Ujjain about 1768, the Rana was defeated. *Sindhia* laid siege to Oodeypore, which would have fallen but for the talent and energy of *Diwan Amar Chand Barwa*. After a protracted siege, *Sindhia* agreed to abandon the pretender on the payment of £700,000. After the treaty had been signed *Sindhia*, believing he could dictate any terms, demanded twenty lakhs (£200,000) more. *Amra* indignantly tore up the treaty and sent the fragments with defiance to *Sindhia* who, alarmed at the resolute spirit thus evinced by the garrison, made overtures for a renewal of negotiations. *Amra* replied that he must deduct from the original terms the expense that had been occasioned by the bad faith of the *Mahrattas*. At length *Sindhia* accepted £635,000, of which £330,000 was paid and the districts of *Jewad*, *Jiran*, *Neemuch* and *Morwan* were mortgaged for the remainder. These lands have never been recovered by *Meywar*. *Morwan* was made over to *Holkar*, who in 1775 extorted from the Rana the surrender of the district of *Nimhahera*. The province of *Godwar* was about the same time granted on feudal tenure to *Jodhpur* and lost to *Meywar*.

Rana Ursi was murdered by the heir-apparent of *Boondi* while on a hunting excursion. He was succeeded by his son *Hameer*, a minor; his mother's ambition for power and the feuds among the chiefs had well nigh dissolved the Government. Regardless of pre-



vious experience the *Ranee* mother in 1775 invited the aid of *Sindhia* to reduce the *Begum* Chief who had revolted and usurped State lands. *Sindhia* exacted for his own benefit a fine of £120,000 from the refractory chiefs and took possession of the districts of *Rutangurb*, *Kheri* and *Singowli*, and made over those of *Irmia*, *Jath*, *Bichor*, and *Naddoma* to *Holkar*. Up to this period the *Mahrattas* had extorted from *Meywar* £1,810,000, and territory to the annual value of £280,000. In 1778 the young Rana died and was succeeded by his brother, *Bheemsing*. The commencement of his rule was marked by sanguinary feuds among the Chiefs, which rendered the country an easy prey to the insatiable rapacity of the *Mahrattas* who for their own aggrandisement identified themselves with all parties by turns. *Meywar* was devastated alternately by *Sindhia* and *Holkar*, until it was rendered almost desolate.

The suit of the Raja of *Jeypore* for the hand of the Princess *Krishna Kuari* of *Oodeypore* had been favourably received by her father. But Raja *Mansing* of *Marwar* also advanced pretensions to the lady on the plea that she had been betrothed to his predecessor, and that the engagement was with the State and not the individual ruler. This led to a ruinous war between *Marwar* and *Jeypore*. The Minister of *Oodeypore* was induced to advise the Rana to sacrifice his daughter to the peace of *Rajputana*. The father at last yielded and poison was administered to the ill-fated princess. From this time (1806 to 1817) *Meywar* continued to be ravaged by the *Mahrattas* and by the *Pindhari* leader *Amir Khan*. On

the suppression in 1817 of the predatory system which had prevailed in Central India, it was resolved, chiefly with a view to prevent its revival, to extend British influence and protection over the States of Rajputana. The chiefs were accordingly invited to ally themselves with the British Government on the basis of acknowledging its supremacy and paying a certain tribute in return for external protection and internal independence. The Rana of Oodeypore eagerly embraced the invitation and signed a treaty accordingly.

Captain Tod was the first Political Agent appointed to Oodeypore. At that time the country was utterly disorganized, but it was through the kindness of the British Government that peace and order were restored to the country, and life and property became more secure.

Maharana Bheem Sing died in 1828, and was succeeded by his only son, *Jawan Sing*, who died in 1838. Maharana Jawan Sing was the first ruler of Meywar, who paid a visit to the Governor-General of India in 1832. Maharana Jawan Sing died, leaving no issue, and was succeeded by Sirdar Sing, Chief of Bagor, the nearest heir to the family. He died in 1842, and was succeeded by his younger and adopted brother, Maharana Sawroop Sing, in whose reign many reforms were introduced and the administration of the country was put on a sound footing. He was succeeded in 1861 by his nephew and adopted son, Shambhu Sing, who was entrusted with the management of the State on attaining his majority in November 1865. During the minority the administration was carried on by a Council of Regency supervised

by the Political Agent. The administration was considerably improved at this time, the civil and criminal courts were placed on a more satisfactory footing, life and property were better secured by the aid of a police force, the jails were re-organised, an excellent school was established and the dispensary improved, public works received full attention, and roads to Neemuch and Desuri were constructed. The revenues increased.

Maharana Shambhu Sing died, however, at the early age of 27, on the 7th October 1874. His first cousin, Sujjan Sing, was elected his successor. During the minority the administration of the State was carried on by a Council of Regency, aided by the advice of the Political Agent. Maharana Sujjan Sing attained his majority in June 1876, and the full administration of the State was shortly after entrusted to him. The late Maharana Sujjan Sing was a G.C.S.I., and had a salute of 21 guns. After attaining full powers of State he introduced many reforms in the administration of the country. Revenue Settlement Works and Irrigation Works were commenced in his reign. Public gardens were laid out and improved.

Maharana Sujjan Sing was born in 1860 and died on the 23rd December 1884. He was succeeded by Fateh Sing, the present Maharana, who is a G.C.S.I., and governs the State well.

The feudatories of the State number 20 of the first rank and 32 of the second. They enjoy rights and privileges which do not obtain in any other part of Rajputana. In *Durbar* the first class nobles take rank

above the heir-apparent, a custom unprecedented in India and granted in consequence of an heir-apparent having attended the Mogul Emperor's Court.

The revenue of the State is about 25 lakhs of Imperial rupees per year.

The Maharana of Oodeypore is entitled to a salute of 19 guns, but the late ruler was granted a personal salute of 21 guns.

---

## ADDENDA.

---

“The Handbook of Meywar and Guide to its principal objects of interest” was published in 1888, or exactly 14 years ago ; since that time a great many changes have taken place—the most important of them has been the construction of the Udaipur-Chitor Railway. The line up to Debari was opened for traffic in 1895 and a couple of years afterwards extended to Udaipur. The length of the whole line is 69 miles ; it passes through a fertile, level country, no rivers except two small streams have been bridged in the way, so that the line is one of the cheapest that has ever been made, as it costs nearly twenty thousand rupees a mile. By the construction of this line, the ancient and the modern capitals of Meywar have been connected, and a passage from Colonel Trevor’s speech, which he delivered at the time of turning the first sod of the line, would be of interest if it be quoted below :—

“To meditate on the ancient glories of Chitor and repose on the peaceful beauty of the Pichola lake on the same day, will be no small treat to hundreds who would never hear of either, unless they were linked by rail as by a bridge of gold.”

There are eight stations on the line, including 3 flag stations, namely, the Bairuch Junction, Ghosunda, Pandoli, Kapasan, Sanwar, Mauli, Khemli and Debari ; at the first named station the line joins the Rajputana-Malwa Railway.

Amongst these stations only two are of importance, namely, those of Kapasan and Mauli—the former being the head-quarters of a district and a place of trade, while at the latter the pilgrims for Nathdwara leave the train, as it is the nearest station on the line for that place of sanctity. Though the stations of Ghosunda, Karera and Debari are small ones, yet they are not without some interest. At Karera there is an ancient and large Jain temple, while Ghosunda is known in Meywar for a country paper factory worked in a primitive way. The flag station of Debari is situated among the imposing ruins of the old Debari gateway, on a side of which over a hill the railway line runs. In olden times Debari is said to be the only way by which Udaipur was accessible.

The railway has been a priceless boon to Meywar, not only in affording facilities for travelling, but it has been able to mitigate its miseries in the memorable famine of 1899-1900 by importing an immense quantity of grain and grass, otherwise I do not know what would have been the fate of the people of Meywar.

I shall now touch every chapter of the Handbook, writing any addition or alteration which is worth mentioning, leaving the full details, omissions and corrections for the enlarged and revised edition which I hope to bring out at a future date.

## INTRODUCTION.

In the introduction a Dâk Bungalow has been mentioned at Udaipur, but it has lately been converted into an Hotel; more rooms have been added to the former

building for the convenience of the large number of visitors to this beautiful city. The combined Telegraph and Post Office has also been built near it.

### FORT OF CHITOR.

The name of the builder of the bridge over the Gambheri river was not written, hence it is necessary to mention that the bridge was built by Prince Khizar Khan, son of Allaudin Khilji, in 1304 A. D.

In mentioning the seven gates of the Chitor Fort, the Bhairon Pol has also been written as Phuta Pol (broken gateway), but I am glad to say that it has since then been newly built.

Arrangements have also been made to repair the old Jain tower, which has been in need of repairs from a long time.

### THE CITY OF UDAIPUR AND ITS ENVIRONS.

The population of the City of Udaipur as mentioned is according to the census of 1881, but the census of 1891 and 1901 returns 46,658 and 45,595 people, respectively.

The city wall has been greatly repaired during the past years, and the Amba Pol and Brahma Pol gates have been newly built in place of the old ones.

Instead of the old City Hospital, known as the Sujjan Hospital, a new commodious building, known as the Lansdowne Hospital, in commemoration of Lord Lansdowne's visit to Udaipur, has been built at a most convenient site for the general public.

The palace at Sujjangurh, which has been written of as in course of construction, has now been finished.

The most important thing which is well worth mentioning, and which has added so much to the fame of Udaipur, is the Fateh Sagur lake, the bund or dam of which is called "The Connaught Bund," as its foundation stone was laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on the occasion of his visit to Udaipur in 1889, and it was owing to the proposal of His Royal Highness that the lake has been named Fateh Sagur, after the name of His Highness the Maharana. This new lake has been connected by a small channel with the Pichola lake. Fateh Sagur lake is nearly one and a-half mile long and the broadest part is nearly a mile. In its deepest part it is 40 feet deep, while the average depth is nearly 20 feet. The Connaught Bund is 2,800 feet long, and the road which reaches the bund from the end of the Pichola lake is nearly a mile long, having a balustrade of stones on the side of the lake, and on the other side it is surrounded by hills. A marble pavilion has been built in the middle of the bund. The chief source of water-supply to the lake is through a channel four miles long which brings water from the Ahar river. When the lake is quite full, the surplus water overflows at the southern end of the Connaught Bund, and it is a beautiful sight to see the overflowing of the water. The lake, besides adding to the beauty of Udaipur, is also useful for irrigation purposes. The scenery round the lake is so lovely and charming, that an excursion to it either in the morning or evening is quite a treat.



On the hills adjoining the lake, besides the two newly built bungalows, there is a place called Moti Mahal, a ruined building, now used for shooting purposes, said to have been built by Maharana Udaï Sing before he founded the city of Udaipur.

The road which goes on the Connaught Bund continues to go to the Sehliön-ki-Bari palace, which was built in the time of Maharana Sangram Sing II., but owing to its being out of repairs, it has lately been repaired, reconstructed, and decorated with paintings, &c., and round it a garden has been laid with the greatest taste with numerous reservoirs and fountains.

### THE MAHARANA'S PALACES.

In the book no mention was made of the State Armoury, which can be seen by the special permission of His Highness the Maharana. Besides containing State swords and shields studded with precious stones, old scimitars, plate and chain armours, curious arrows of the old type, it has a sword, a chain armour, and a helmet which are peculiarly interesting, as they were used by the famous Maharana Pratap Sing in his many hard-fought battles.

The most important addition that has been made to the huge and grand pile of His Highness the Maharana's palaces is the Shiva Niwas palace just behind the Shambhu Niwas palace overlooking the State Gardens. This palace has been built round a hillock and has three stories; the uppermost one has been prepared for the use of His Highness the Maharana. The whole structure, which has been plastered with marble chunam, and

which has been fitted with numerous balconies having *chhutries* on them with golden pinnacles, the outer part of the middle balcony being decorated with glass mosaic, looks a gigantic and beautiful building from outside. If a visit is paid to the inner apartments, which are nine in number, and which have been built round a crescent-like court-yard, it will show the excellent taste of His Highness the Maharana, and the skill and talent of the Udaipur artizan—the latter has been able to do all the decoration work inside the rooms with the greatest delicacy and skill. The chief feature of the decorations is the glass mosaic work in four rooms ; flowers, ferns, animals and birds, &c., have been cut from glass sheets and inserted in the walls; it has been so finely done that the details of the tail of a peacock are distinctly seen and one can count the small threads of a feather. Some rooms have been painted in water colours ; in one room different views of the chief sights of Udaipur are shown on the lower part of the wall. The palace with its marble stairs, marble pillars, marble pavements, ivory doors, and a fountain in the middle of the court-yard with well carved marble railing, having two Asoka trees on its sides, produces a charming effect on the mind of the visitor.

It is also pleasant to note that the walls of the rooms in this new palace are to be adorned with the portraits of the illustrious ancestors of His Highness the Maharana. The four life-size oil paintings copied by Raja Ravi Varma, the famous Travancore Artist, from the old pictures, will be an attractive feature in this new building. These portraits are of the famous Maharana Pratap Sing,

his son Maharana Amar Sing, Maharanas Raj Sing and Jai Sing.

### THE MAHARANA'S GARDENS.

The Victoria Hall was opened by the Marquis of Lansdowne in 1890, and the statue of Her Imperial Majesty, the late Queen-Empress, was unveiled in the same year by His Royal Highness the late Duke of Clarence and Avondale. The library in the Victoria Hall contains a collection of English, Sanskrit, Persian and Vernacular books, the Reading Room table is always full of newspapers, while the Museum has a collection of the art works of Udaipur and some old curious arms ; but the most important collection is that of 30 old inscriptions and 36 old images, the oldest inscription dates as far back as 250 B.C., and is written in Pali characters. The turban of Emperor Shah Jahan is also to be seen in this building : when Shah Jahan, not being on good terms with his father, Jahangeer, sought refuge at Udaipur, he exchanged his turban with that of His Highness, the then Maharana, as a mark of friendship. This custom is still prevalent in Rajputana.

The Librarian of the Victoria Hall, Pandit Gaurishanker, who is a great scholar in deciphering old inscriptions, has a very good private collection of the old coins of Rajputana.

The extensive State gardens are in as good condition as they were before under the superintendence of Mr. Storey. This year the *Victoria Regia* leaves grew very big—one of them having a diameter of 9 feet.

## THE PICHOLA LAKE AND ITS PALACES.

Nothing of importance has occurred worth mentioning in the chapter about the Pichola Lake, but it should be noted that the Lake Pichola was built before the city of Udaipur was founded, *i.e.*, about 500 years ago.

## THE VILLAGE OF AHAR AND THE ROYAL CREMATORY.

There is nothing worth adding in this chapter save that the cenotaphs of Maharanas Shambhu Sing and Sujjan Sing have now been finished.

It would be interesting to know that the first Maharana who was cremated here was Amar Sing I. Maharana Udai Sing, the founder of Udaipur, died at Gogunda village some 14 miles from Udaipur in the north-west corner, while his son, the renowned Pratap Sing, breathed his last at Chawand village in the hilly districts.

## GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON MEYWAR.

The population of Meywar, according to the census of 1891 and 1901, is as under :—

	Total population.	Houses.
1891	1,844,210	312,454
1901	1,021,664	273,516

The decrease is due to a very severe famine in 1899-1900 as well as owing to the high mortality caused by fever afterwards.

A new palace has been lately built on a hill overlooking the Udai Sagur lake, and a long-felt want has been removed by His Highness, as there was no palace there before.

Palaces have also been built on the bund and the hills adjoining the great Jaisamand Lake. A beautiful and big palace has also been constructed on the top of the old Kumulgurh Fort, which is the highest mountain in Meywar, where His Highness the Maharana can live in summer.

### HISTORICAL NOTE ON MEYWAR.

I leave the historical portion as it is, simply adding that His Highness the Maharana's salute has been raised from 19 to 21 guns, as a personal distinction on the occasion of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen-Empress, while Her Highness the Maharani received the Imperial Order of the Crown of India.

I should like to mention the places where Colonel Tod, the first Political Agent of Udaipur, used to live, and whose name is a household word in Meywar :—

Dabok—a place 11 miles from Udaipur in the east, where Colonel Tod's bungalow is still to be seen.

Rampiari-ki-Bari at Udaipur—a place near the State Gardens.

Sehliion-ki-Bari at Udaipur—a place where Colonel Tod stopped for a fortnight before his departure for good.

20









